

Action Plan

2013-2023



8 Action Plan

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The OAIP Action Plan is a initial 10 year programme of activity to improve access to the countryside of Central Bedfordshire, predominately steering the work of the Countryside Access Service, who will produce and manage a rolling 5 year business plan to detail and deliver this plans actions. The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated in 2018, 2023 and 2028 to cover the full period of the Outdoor Access Improvement Plan (OAIP).

This is a Central Bedfordshire led plan; however, the community and the council's partners will help deliver the plan over the period. The council already works with a range of partners and will continue to develop these links over the period of the plan to ensure its delivery.

8.1 Structure of the Action Plan

The action plan has been structured into 5 sections:

- Connecting Spaces: Rights of Way
...taking you through the landscape
- Breathing Spaces: Sites and Greenspaces
...oases of calm at the heart of your community
- Local Spaces: Community Involvement and Participation
...the green space on our doorstep
- Healthy Spaces: Health and Wellbeing
...which encourage us to get active
- Growing Spaces: The Countryside and Growth
...sustaining our communities

The Action Plan has been structured with resourcing as a fundamental consideration. The Action Plan will look to provide value for money high quality services whilst being realistic about what can be achieved over the timeframe given the resourcing constraints. However, the plan is not limited to what can be achieved with the

resources that are currently available, but will also look at what can be achieved by developing new ways of working and exploring new and creative funding streams.

The Action Plan will highlight the timescales for the particular work streams, outputs and projects (collectively referred to as ‘deliverables’) and will identify the required level of resourcing. Resources cover both staff allocation and delivery costs of the actions and have been based on revenue and capital allocation available at the time of writing.

The timescales for delivery will be divided as follows:

Short	Medium	Long Term
0 – 5 years	5 – 10 years	10 years +

Projects will be started within the delivery timescales and, in most instances, completed within the 5 year periods to tie in with the 5 year cycle of the action plans. There will be instances where projects are started and fall over a number of action plan reporting periods – particularly in relation to long term projects.

The Action Plan identifies the level of resourcing required for each project or activity in the following manner:

Key	Resource Level	Resource Implications
£	Level 1	Projects that can be delivered within existing resources (both staffing and budgets).
££	Level 2	Projects requiring small levels of extra resourcing – including staffing, financial, or increased partnership working.
£££	Level 3	Projects that can only be delivered through finding and securing of significant new resources.

8.1.1 The Countryside Access Service

The Countryside Access Service is the team responsible for the development, management and delivery of the Outdoor Access Improvement Plan. It manages the rights of way network, the councils countryside sites and programmes that engage with over 600 volunteers. This skilled, experienced team of professionals are charged with a complex and diverse range of duties and challenges including legal matters (i.e. enforcement and prosecution), contract management, maintenance and construction of infrastructure, dealing with planning and growth, liaising with local council's and communities, project management and fundraising.

8.2 Flagship Projects

In addition to the actions we have identified in the action plan, five projects have been identified that will provide significant benefits to Central Bedfordshire, extending the focus and challenging the work of the council. Four of the projects are thematic in nature; the other project relates to a specific site offering considerable potential for development for community benefit. The scale of this site based project leads to its inclusion as a flagship project.

8.2.1 Heath and Wellbeing Development

Seek to develop a walking and physical activity programme, promoting the benefits of the natural environment on stress, blood pressure reduction and the benefits of cheap and accessible exercise. This would support the existing Health Walks partnership and should seek to develop linkages with Nordic Walking, Walking and Running Clubs, orienteering and practical volunteering such as Volunteer Green Exercise Programmes. This will be in line with the Leisure Strategy Physical Activity Strategy.

8.2.2 Greenspace Master Planning and Accessible Landscapes

The council will identify a number of defined priority landscapes. It will work to improve the quality of access, interpretation and information on these landscapes and promote them as places to visit in their own right. This project would provide links to engaging people with the landscape on their doorstep, improving accessibility of structures, destination signage, running events and guided walks. It could also possibly increase maintenance quality through the active direction of volunteers and community payback personnel.

8.2.3 Bridleway Connectivity

The council will undertake a study in partnership with Sustrans and The British Horse Society to identify the most important missing links in the Bridleway Network. It will seek to deliver new links and connections to both improve connectivity and safety of the network. This will benefit both horse riders and cyclists.

8.2.4 Houghton Hall Park

The 'Renaissance and Renewal' project has been created to restore Houghton Hall Park to its former glory. User and non-user surveys show that the site is not well known or used and that people are unaware of the importance of the site to Houghton Regis. External funding will be sought to fund improved visitor facilities as well as heritage restoration works, interpretation, promotion and a programme of activities to encourage greater interest in and use of the park.

8.2.5 Dogs in the Countryside

A project will be established to look at the range of people / dog management issues. This will include dog fouling, conflicts with other users, conflicts with livestock, disturbance to wildlife and damage to sensitive habitats. The project will work with partners to develop positive relationships with dog owners and promote consistent messages for countryside sites and rights of way across CBC and potentially adjoining areas.

8.3 Action Plan

Connecting Spaces ... taking you through the landscape

Aim 1 – A Well Maintained Network

Outcome 1 – Rights of Way to be available and unobstructed

Ref N ^o	Deliverable	Measure	Baseline	Target	Resources	Timescale	Partners
1.1.1	Create a regular volunteer programme to survey paths enabling communities to identify their priorities.	No. of parishes surveyed	10 /78 parishes	All parishes surveyed every 5 years	£	Short	GST, BRCC
1.1.2	Create a Maintenance Policy that outlines standards for path maintenance. Assess the network against these standards and establish a works programme to ensure paths meet standards.	% paths meeting policy standards	70% meet standards	90% meet standards by 2017	££	Medium	Not applicable
1.1.3	FLAGSHIP PROJECT: Establish a new partnership / initiative to raise awareness with Dog Owners about dog control and fouling issues, reducing the affect on the public of these issues.	Appropriate measures to be determined in first phase of project	to be determined when measures are set	to be determined when measures are set	££	Short	NT, GST,WT, HRTC, FMV, LBC, BRCC

Outcome 2 – Rights of Way to be signed from the road and waymarked as necessary

1.2.1	Establish a new programme of winter gap and signage clearance to ensure that major growth is cut back over the winter.	No. of gaps and signposts cleared	Pilot of 35 locations cleared in 2012	All gaps and signposts cleared every 5 years	££	Short	Not applicable
1.2.2	Establish a signage programme, working with local communities to identify paths that would benefit from distance and destination detail on fingerposts.	No of posts installed per annum	30 pa	40 pa	££	Short	Not applicable
1.2.3	Paths on urban fringe waymarked so that users don't require maps.	No of urban fringe paths waymarked	70% meet standards	90% meet standards by 2017	££	Short	Not applicable
1.2.4	Waymarking of paths incorporated into regular surveying. Volunteers trained and then encouraged to monitor and replace waymark discs in their local area.	Number of parishes waymarked by volunteers	10 /78 parishes	78 every 5 years	£	Medium	Not applicable

Aim1 - Quality Measures

	Ease of use [BVPI178 criteria]		72%	Sustain and increase for next 5 years. Target 75%	£	Ongoing	
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Aim 2 – A Better Defined and Recorded Network

Outcome 1 – All Public Rights of Way to be legally recorded by the 2026 DEFRA deadline

Ref N ^o	Deliverable	Measure	Baseline	Target	Resources	Timescale	Partners
2.1.1	Increase the resolution of anomalies per annum	Number of anomalies resolved	10 per year	20 per year to order making stage	££	Ongoing	Not applicable
2.1.2	Process Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) applications within 4 months of receipt	Number of TCPA applications processed within deadline	100%	Maintain at 100%	£	Ongoing	Not applicable

Connecting Spaces ... taking you through the landscape

2.1.3	Improve the Council's performance in determining 'Definitive Map Modification Orders' (DMMOs) within 12 months. Reduce receipt back log	Number of DMMOs in backlog	10	0 DMMO over 12 months old in waiting list	££	Short	Not applicable
2.1.4	Improve the Council's performance on Public Path Orders (PPO) determination to less than 12 months	Number of PPOs in backlog	6	0 PPO over 12 months old in waiting list	££	Long	Not applicable
2.1.5	Check that all rights of way are recorded on the definitive map. Establish a 'Lost Ways' project that uses volunteers to undertake historical research.	% of parishes reviewed for Lost Ways	0	100% by 2024	££	Long	Not applicable
2.1.6	Consolidate the Definitive Map and Statement every 3 years	Complete Consolidation occurson 3 yearly cycle	Not applicable	Two consolidation cycles by end of Action Plan	£	Long	Not applicable

Outcome 2 – Definitive Maps are created for the Excluded areas of Biggleswade and Dunstable

2.2.1	In line with the Excluded Area Strategy, investigate, map and record rights of way within Dunstable and create a new or add to the existing Definitive Map	DM for excluded area	No PROW in area	Excluded areas resolved	££	Medium	Not applicable
2.2.2	In line with the Excluded Area Strategy, investigate, map and record rights of way within Biggleswade and create a new or add to the existing Definitive Map	DM for excluded area	No PROW in area	Excluded areas resolved	££	Medium	Not applicable

Aim 3 – A well connected network

Outcome 1 – Level of connectivity of the public path network is increased

Ref N ^o	Deliverable	Measure	Baseline	Target	Resources	Timescale	Partners
3.1.1	Initially focusing in the Ivel Valley framework area, work with communities to review their local network, GI Planning and local parish / town planning to prioritise local and strategic connectivity issues	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	££	Short-Long	BRCC
3.1.2	Working with communities seek to identify the path network that provides access to schools, facilities, transport hubs and key visitor destinations– for incorporation into the Local Area Transport Plan [LATP]	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	£	Medium	Town/ Parish Councils, Community groups, schools, attractions
3.1.3	Review public rights of way road and rail crossings. Undertake public use and evidence analysis to identify critical crossing locations and propose improvements as part of future LATP programs	No of crossings reviewed	1	4 pa	££	Long	NR, as appropriate
3.1.4	Undertake assessment, and where necessary improve, Greensand Ridge walk / ride, the Kingfisher Way and the Icknield Way path and Trail, to reduce dangerous crossings and road sections	No of crossings improved	0	10	££	Short	GST, BRCC, IWA, GSRW Steering Group

Outcome 2 – Bridleway connectivity is increased

3.2.1	Produce a plan to increase bridleway connectivity in south west Central Bedfordshire - working with Cycling and Horse riding communities to propose and deliver new network links	% km squares with good bridleway connectivity	Baseline required	Dependent on baseline	£££	Medium	BHS
3.2.2	Produce a plan to increase bridleway connectivity in east Central Bedfordshire - working with Cycling and Horse riding communities to propose and deliver new network links	% km squares with good bridleway connectivity	Baseline Required	Dependent on baseline	£££	Short	BRCC

Connecting Spaces ... taking you through the landscape

Outcome 3 - Further severance of the network is minimised

3.3.1	Develop a connectivity policy to protect the network from severance and unacceptable mitigation / diversion levels.	% km squared of whole network with good level of connectivity	Baseline created from policy	Dependent on baseline	£	Medium	As appropriate
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Aim 4 – A more accessible network of routes

Outcome 1 – Public Rights of Way will be more accessible to users

Ref N ^o	Deliverable	Measure	Baseline	Target	Resources	Timescale	Partners
4.1.1	Promoted walks promoted by the Council should be stile free and have distance/destination signposting	% of promoted routes that are stile free and have distance and destination signage	80%	100%	££	Short	Communities , walking groups
4.1.2	Review and update the Least Restrictive Access policy. Use this to develop a matrix which ensures that the network is as accessible as possible	Length of network by parish between structures [especially stiles]	Original policy	Policy reviewed and in use by 2014	£	Short	As appropriate
4.1.3	Create seating and resting points on frequently used urban fringe paths and promoted routes	No of seats and resting points created	0	5 pa	££	Long	Communities , Town and Parish Councils
4.1.4	Work with local communities to identify internal paths that can be surfaced to improve accessibility to amenities, village hall, church, view point or historic feature. Seek to include these within the LATP process	% of paths surfaced	Baseline needs establishing	Dependent on baseline	£££	Long	Communities , Town and Parish Councils
4.1.5	Reduce the number of restrictive structures on the network; seek to remove structures no longer needed for stock management and upgrade stiles to gaps or gates.	% of network that is stile free	91%	95%	££	Medium	Communities , Town and Parish Councils
4.1.6	Create public art at key locations on the Greensand Ridge Walk and other promoted routes to reflect local community or heritage and to enhance the environment.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	£££	Long	GSRWSG, arts organisation s, others as appropriate

Breathing Spaces... oases of calm at the heart of your community

Aim 5 – Well managed Countryside Spaces							
Outcome 1 – Countryside sites will be managed to a good state of repair, with visitors understanding the sites and their management and having regard to the intrinsic qualities of the landscape							
Ref N ^o .	Deliverable	Measure	Baseline	Target	Resources	Timescale	Partners
5.1.1	All Level 1 and 2 Countryside sites will have an up to date management and development plan. The local community will be involved in the development of these plans and information will be accessible to them on the plans and their implementation	% Countryside Sites with Management Plans (up-to date)	17 Management Plans in place	100% by 2015	£	Short	NT, GST
5.1.2	All Level 3 and 4 Countryside sites will have an up to date management plan/ statement. The local community will be involved in the development of plans for sites with public access and information will be accessible to them on the plans and their implementation	% Countryside Sites with Management Plans (up-to date)	0 Management Plans/Statements in place	100% by 2017	£	Medium	NT, GST,WT, ST, BRCC
5.1.3	Welcome signage and/or interpretation will familiarise people with the site, its management, who is responsible and will encourage people to explore and discover	No of sites with signage	Signage and interpretation exists at 30 sites	Signage and interpretation at 50 sites by 2018	££	Medium	NT, GST,WT, ST, BRCC
5.1.4	FLAGSHIP PROJECT - Develop a new initiative to target Dog fouling, dog control and on site litter	Appropriate measures to be determined in first phase of project	to be determined when measures are set	to be determined when measures are set	££	Short	NT, GST,WT, MV, LBC, BRCC
5.1.5	Establish new systems to record and manage the countryside sites tree inspections. Seek to improve work programming and health and safety management.	% tree inspections recorded	0%	100%	££	Short	NT, GST,WT, ST, BRCC
5.1.6	Undertake a review of the management of our SSSI's and County Wildlife Stites to establsih new guidelines for the management of the Council's sites. All council sites will be managed to achieve favourable/favourable recovering condition status.	SSSI Total – Condition level	6 sites favourable/favourable recovering. 1 site unfavourable	7 sites favourable/favourable recovering	££	Medium	NT,GST,WT, BRCC
5.1.7	Undertake a review of the management of ancient monuments on the Council's countryside sites and ensure Management and Development Plans cover the protection, maintenance and promotion of these sites.	No of ancient monument sites with Management Plans	1 plan	4 plans	£	Medium	NT,EH, BRCC
5.1.8	Seek to implement and operate control measures to reduce anti social behaviour, regulate access and alleviate nuisances, on countryside sites and rights of way in order to ensure that all enjoy their visit	% of complaints addressed	baseline data to be established in 2013	dependent on baseline	£	Short	Community Police, NT, GST,WT, ST, BRCC
5.1.9	FLAGSHIP PROJECT - Develop improved visitor facilities for Houghton Hall Park	% of users rating site as Good or Excellent	Baseline Survey taking place 2013	Dependent on baseline survey	£££	Medium	GST, HRTC, HRHG, community
Outcome 2 – Visitors will know the location of their nearest space and be aware of their travel choices							
5.2.1	Travel plans will be developed for our category 1 sites, ensuring that local people are aware and confident to access the sites by walking, cycling and other sustainable methods (e.g. car share).	% sites with travel plans	2	5	££	Long	NT, GST,WT, HRTC, ST
Outcome 3 - Existing sites will be enhanced to meet the demands of local communities and the growth agenda							
5.3.1	A review of existing landholdings will be undertaken with the view of identifying adjacent land that could be justifiably aquired to consolidate existing landholdings, and widen the activities that each site offers.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	£££	Medium	As appropriate
5.3.2	Enhance existing and create new facilities on site, e.g. trails, litter/waste bins, toilets, play facilities, public art, car parking, visitor centres to cater for increased use - in line with Leisure startegy standards and user / nonuser demands	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	££ / £££	Long	As appropriate

Aim 6 – Commons, Village Greens and Access Areas will be legally defined with people understanding their rights							
Outcome 1 – People will know where their nearest Common, Village Green and Access Area is and are confident of how they can use them.							
Ref N ^o .	Deliverable	Measure	Baseline	Target	Resources	Timescale	Partners
6.1.1	Work with local communities to promote existing Commons	% of Commons with enhanced information	60%	100%	££	Medium	PC/TC
6.1.2	Maintain the register of commons and village greens, increasing availability of access and web accessibility	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	££	Ongoing	Not applicable
6.1.3	In line with government legislation facilitate communities to register new Village Greens	No of village green applications	No applications received in 2012	100% of applications processed within 12 months	££	Long	PC/TC
6.1.4	Ensure that all open access areas are clearly signed and promoted and where appropriate covered by byelaws	% Open Access areas signed appropriately	100%	100% maintained	£	Ongoing	NT, WT, BRCC
6.1.5	Manage and promote open access areas in CBC ownership or under a scheme of management in accordance with Aim 5	% of open access areas with enhanced information	50%	100%	££	Medium	NT, GST, BRCC

Local Spaces... the greenspace on your doorstep

Aim 7 – More people volunteering

Outcome 1 – More people will be aware and taking opportunities to volunteer on the environmental initiatives in their area

Ref' N°	Deliverable	Measure	Baseline	Target	Resources	Timescale	Partners
7.1.1	The People Projects Partnership (P3) scheme will continue to be resourced, supported and developed. There will be an increase in community volunteers within existing P3 groups and in the number and range of activities in the scheme	No of P3 groups	36	40	£	Short	BRCC, GST
7.1.2	The skills and roles of P3 groups will be extended and diversified.	No of P3 groups skilled in multiple roles	25	39	£	Short	BRCC, GST
7.1.3	P3 groups will be encouraged to work with and organise events with other groups (scouts, guides, WI, Rotary Club, schools etc) to support community cohesion	No of events held with other groups	3	6 annual events by 2017	£	Short	P3, FGs, BRCC, GST
7.1.4	The 'Friends of' programme that is operated through our countryside sites will continue to be resourced, maintained and extended to other sites	No of 'Friends of' groups	20 groups	25 groups by 2017	£	Short	BRCC, GST
7.1.5	A new 'Junior Friends of' scheme will be established – which will seek to develop the interest of young people in the natural environment	No of 'Junior Friends'	Dependent on pilot	Dependent on pilot	££	Medium	P3, FGs, GST, BRCC
7.1.6	Increase the involvement of the Youth Parliament and the Young Inspectors as a mechanism of scoping and facilitating an increase in youth engagement with, and enhancements to, the sites and countryside access.	No of items with YP/YI input	1 pa	3 pa	£	Medium	BRCC, GST
7.1.7	Site management and development plans / statements will clearly identify the tasks that volunteers can support	No of Plans including volunteer roles	0	50%	£	Medium	BRCC, GST
7.1.8	Consult with other groups using volunteers to identify best practice in managing their volunteer base	No of groups consulted	0	15	£	Medium	BRCC, GST
7.1.9	As part of our P3 and 'friends of' initiatives we will establish a regular programme of training called 'Step this way'. This will invest in and support volunteer development.	No. of volunteers trained	6	15	££	Medium	BRCC, GST
7.1.10	Support communities in achieving Green Flag Awards (community awards for their management of Council owned site).	No. of Green Flag Awards	3 current	5 by 2017	£	Short	BRCC, GST, P3, FGs
7.1.11	Following a review of the initial community payback pilot, extend the opportunities for wider contracting	No. of Community Payback Hours	Dependent on pilot	Dependent on pilot	£	Medium	BRCC, GST

Aim 8 – Increased Town and Parish Council involvement in countryside sites and rights of way management and development

Outcome 1 – Town and Parish Councils have more opportunities to be involved in the management and development of local sites and public path network.

Ref' N°	Deliverable		Baseline	Target	Resources	Timescale	Partners
8.1.1	Scope the level of involvement that Town and Parish Councils want to have with the management of countryside sites and rights of way. Within resources available seek to adapt delivery to meet community needs.	No. of Town and Parish Councils engaged	0	10	£	Short	Town and Parish Councils

8.1.2	Develop a reporting system for Town and Parish councils and ward members which will review performance and seek discussion and agreement on proposed future work and priorities.	No of Town and Parish Councils receiving report	0	100%	££	Short	Town and Parish Councils
8.1.3	Establish information, guides and training to inform and coach community leaders in issues relating to the management of Rights of Way and Countryside sites, link with the 'Step this way' volunteer training programme.	No of community leaders receiving information/ coaching	0	15	££	Medium	Community groups, Town and Parish Councils
8.1.4	Ensure that Town and Parish Councils are represented on major sites user forums and flagship projects steering groups established on major sites or initiatives	No of Forums with Town and Parish Council representation	2	7	£	Long	Town and Parish Councils

Aim 9 – Countryside Access will contribute to supporting the rural economy

Outcome 1 – Local Businesses have more opportunities to benefit from the development of sites and Rights of Way.

Ref' N°	Deliverable	Measure	Baseline	Target	Resources	Timescale	Partners
9.1.1	Literature supporting promoted walks will show the location of relevant local businesses	% of leaflets showing businesses	0	100%	£	Medium	Local businesses
9.1.2	Ensure that our walks and rides link with and/or start and finish at appropriate local business or community centres.	No of routes that start/ finish from business or community hub	Establish baseline	20	££	Medium	Local businesses

Outcome 2 - Visitor numbers to Central Bedfordshire countryside sites will increase

9.2.1	Seek to work with councils - targeting Greensand Ridge Area as a priority - to replicate the success of Sandy Town Councils bid to become a 'Walkers are Welcome Town'.	No of Councils	1	3	££	Medium	STC, Town and Parish Councils
9.2.2	A range of events showcasing local produce and products, e.g. Farmers Markets, will be held on our countryside sites to encourage a wider range of visitors.	No of events held	1	3	£	Short	BRCC

Outcome 3 - Employment opportunities for the Local Area will be maximised

9.3.1	Endeavour to employ any part-time wardens from the surrounding area subject to the personnel specification being met	% of wardens from local area	Currently major sites managed by partners	Partners encouraged to employ local labour and any new sites developed to make use of local labour resource	£	Long	BRCC, GST, NT, ST
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Aim 10 – More people have access to good quality information and are aware of countryside access close to them

Outcome 1 – People will be able to access information about local sites and promoted routes

Ref' N°	Deliverable	Measure	Baseline	Target	Resources	Timescale	Partners
10.1.1	Maintain and increase the quality of our existing promoted walking and cycling leaflets and work with the British Horse Society to enhance their riding routes, increasing online availability and quality of all routes	100% of leaflets are available in print and online	90%	100%	£	Short	GST/NT/BRCC/FMV
10.1.2	Enhance access to routes and site information through the use of Apps and other online mediums (e.g. QR Codes, GPS etc)	No of routes and sites covered by an app	0	10	££	Long	CBC marketing team
10.1.3	Seek to enhance the provision of online information about local sites and promoted routes, ensuring that we learn from best practice in other areas.	No of routes and sites with online information	10 promoted routes	100%	£	Medium	CBC marketing team
10.1.4	Produce a new general 'walks, rides and places to visit' leaflet for general distribution, that will point to our web site for downloads	No of leaflets distributed	0	3000	££	Medium	GST/NT/BRCC/FMV

10.1.5	Continue to develop routes that promote family cycling and cycle tourism in Central Bedfordshire, working with colleagues and partners to ensure that there is a range for all needs across the area 'Cycle Central'.	No of family routes	6	10	££	Long	Sust. Travel
10.1.6	Continue to support the www.letsgo.org.uk web site that promotes routes and sites in Bedfordshire with links to accommodation providers and other related information	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	£	Ongoing	FMV
10.1.7	Seek to identify more accessible routes that can facilitate access for family groups with push chairs and people with limited mobility. Promote via our online access trails	No of new accessibility routes created	0	10	££	Long	GST/NT/BRCC/FMV
10.1.8	Seek to improve information, branding and awareness of the Greensand Ridge Walk and Cycle Route	Greensand Ridge User Survey - 'how did you hear about route'	16% through CBC materials	25% through CBC materials	££	Medium	GSRWSG
10.1.9	Support P3 and Friends Groups to promote countryside access in their own areas (e.g. locally produced leaflets, interpretive panels etc)	No of groups producing their own materials	10	20	££	Medium	GST/BRCC/NT
Outcome 2 – There will be an increased level of awareness of facilities close to where people live							
10.2.1	Have a presence at selected events in Central Bedfordshire either directly or via our partnerships	No of events attended	4pa	6pa	£	short - long	GST/BRCC/NT
10.2.2	Encourage and support Friends and P3 groups to attend local and community events to promote countryside access	No of events attended by groups	0	5 pa	£	Short	GST/BRCC
10.2.3	Support skill development within communities and groups through the 'Step this way' training programme	No of training courses run	3 events / yr	10 py	£	Medium	GST/BRCC
10.2.4	Widen promotion of 'Open Access areas' throughout Central Bedfordshire ensuring that the value and sensitivities of these special sites is understood.	No of articles in media/ internet	0	5 pa	£	Short	GST/NT/NE/BRCC
10.2.5	Develop outreach programmes with communities that are local but underrepresented on the Councils sites, either directly or in conjunction with local partners.	No of hard to reach groups engaged	0	10	££	Medium	BRCC/GST/NT/ BRCC
Outcome 3 – People will have good access to technical information about rights of way issues and the management of their local sites							
10.3.1	Online problem reporting for Public Rights of Way created	No of online reports	60% resolved	90% resolved	££	Medium	CBC IT
10.3.2	Information about rights of way processes will be available on line (temporary closures / diversion orders / how to guides)	Pages and online forms available	Not available	Available	£	Medium	CBC IT
10.3.3	Provide information on permissive paths [ppas] and cycle tracks in addition to the definitive network to provide a full picture of countryside access	% cycletracks and ppa on online maps	0	100%	£	Short	
10.3.4	Develop a guide for Town & Parish Councils and Community leaders on the management and roles and responsibilities of Rights of Way and wider countryside access	No of Guides sent out	0	All Parish and Town Councils to have received a copy	££	Medium	Town and parish councils
Aim 11 – Support and Provide Environmental Education opportunities							
Outcome 1– Parents and schools will have informed access to the natural environment							
Ref ^o	Deliverable	Measure	Baseline	Target	Resources	Timescale	Partners
11.1.1	New parental support / e-learning web provision will be developed to promote informed family access in the natural environment.	No of website hits	0	1000 pm	£££	Short	As appropriate

11.1.2	Continue to support our partners in the delivery of educational events e.g. Bug Lab / Run Wild and Forest Schools	No of events	4 pa	8 pa	£	Short	BRCC/ Greensand Trust
11.1.3	Introduce schools to their local green spaces; either facilitate through partners or provide direct support	No of schools visiting sites	2 pa	5 pa	£	Short	CBC Schools service/BRCC/GST
11.1.4	Through our partners we will promote the use of countryside sites by schools for educational activity	No of visits made by schools	Unknown	10 pa	£	Short	National Trust/ Greensand Trust

Healthy Spaces... which encourage us to get active

Aim 12 – Countryside Spaces and Rights of Way will facilitate play, health, well being and physical activities							
Outcome 1 – Strategies and new delivery partners will recognise the positive and cost effective role that countryside access plays in the health and wellbeing of the population							
Ref N ^o	Deliverable	Measure	Baseline	Target	Resources	Timescale	Partners
12.1.2	Ensure the health benefits that countryside access offers are properly documented in all relevant strategies and policy statements	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	£	Long	LNP
Outcome 2 – Countryside Access will be a place to play and enjoy, with children and young people rediscovering and appreciating the natural environment							
12.2.1	Continue to develop 'Run Wild' natural play events at countryside sites	No of events	1	Extend to 2 each year	££	Medium	BRCC
12.2.2	Develop and promote the use of formal (as appropriate) and natural play facilities on countryside sites	No of sites with play facilities	11 sites	30 sites	££	Medium	As appropriate
Outcome 3 – Activities and events that promote Health and Physical Activity on countryside sites will promote the use of the wider landscape							
12.3.1	Review pilot to install outdoor gym equipment on National Trust Partnership sites; look to extend the installation of fitness equipment and resources to other sites if positively evaluated	No of sites with fitness equipment	1 site	Dependent on results of pilot	££	Short	National Trust
12.3.2	Support the use of our sites for exercise programmes and events e.g. military fitness, BLACKS / North Face – Single track and assault trail run.	No of sites running exercise programmes	0 sites	5 sites	£	Short	As appropriate
12.3.3	Develop and promote orienteering events and permanent courses on suitable countryside sites	No. Sites mapped and routes established for permanent courses	Three maps produced but no courses/ 1 events organised	3 permanent courses	££	Short	As appropriate
12.3.4	Develop 1 mile exercise walks as part of 'walk 4 life' NHS programme. Ensure that every community has a route.	Number of routes	14 routes on website	All 14 routes waymarked	£	Medium	As appropriate
12.4.5	FLAGSHIP PROJECT - Develop a new initiative, in partnership with Leisure Strategy outputs to support and extend Central Bedfordshire Health Walks programme and seek wider opportunities to support health and wellbeing outputs through outdoor and countryside access activities.	No. of Heath Walk Groups	13 Health Walk Groups	20 Health Walk Groups	£££	Short	BRCC

Growing Spaces... productive spaces that nourish and sustain new communities

Aim 13 – The quantity and quality of rights of way and greenspaces meet the needs of current and future communities

Outcome 1 – The Council will understand the needs of users and non users and the role that the site and access routes play in the green infrastructure network. This will steer future management and site development.

Ref N ^o	Deliverable	Measure	Baseline	Target	Resources	Timescale	Partners
13.1.1	Countryside Site surveys will be undertaken every 3 years on major sites and every 5 years on the lower profile sites, with an action plan developed and publicised locally	No of surveys completed	3 pa	Maintain 3 pa	£	Short	NT,GST,WT,HR TC,ST
13.1.2	Rights of way surveys will be undertaken every 3 years. These will be used to inform resource allocation and OAIP action plan reviews	No of surveys completed	2010 survey	2013 [spring] survey	£	Short	As appropriate
13.1.3	A detailed assessment of the needs of users and stakeholders of the rights of way network will be undertaken every 5-10 years	Assesment completed	Not applicable	Not applicable	££	Medium	As appropriate
13.1.4	Establish and operate User Forums on all major sites and projects	No of sites with user forums	2	7	£	Medium	NT,GST,PC/TC
13.1.5	A study will be undertaken with an academic partner into the development of a model that can project the expected use of countryside facilities from new development	Study undertaken	Not applicable	Not applicable	££	Medium	As appropriate
13.1.6	FLAGSHIP PROJECT - Greenspace masterplanning and accessible landscapes - develop a new approach to promoting access to selected areas of Central Bedfordshire, this master planning approach will look to both improve the quality of access and the visitor experience - initial work to focus in the Ivel and Ouzel Valleys and in the Chalk Arc around Luton Dunstable and Houghton Regis	No of masterplans completed per annum	0	3 pa	££	Short	3rd Sector Environmental Partners inc GST, BRCC
13.1.7	Sites will be categorised, and a clear vision developed, for the standards of management and future development of each site. This will be linked to supporting the implementation of the Leisure Strategy	% of sites meeting management standards	to be determined when standards are set	to be determined when standards are set	£	Short	NT,GST,WT
13.1.8	Standards and Specifications will be drawn up to support for the delivery of linear access routes in new developments to support and supplement the Design Guide.	Standards created	Not applicable	Not applicable	£	Short	Not applicable
Outcome 2 – New sites will be established to meet the demands of increased housing							
13.2.1	Monitor planning applications to ensure that the quality and quantity of green space and rights of way provision meets agreed standards	% of relevant planning applications meeting standards	Unknown	100%	£	Short	Not applicable
13.2.2	New countryside sites in areas identified in the Leisure Strategy and the Green Infrastructure Plan will be developed to meet deficits in location and types of sites available	% of countryside sites identified in leisure strategy developed	Dependent on leisure strategy	Dependent on leisure strategy	£££	Short	NT,GST,WT, BRCC